

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for exchanging media content, comprising:

a communications device operatively coupled to a network and to an antenna, the communications device providing two-way communications with the network and providing one-way communications with the antenna,

wherein the communications device can receive media content from the antenna,

wherein the communications device can send the media content to the network, and

wherein the communications device can receive the media content from the network.
2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the antenna comprises a dish antenna.
3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the communications device comprises a software platform that can provide at least one of a user-interface functionality, a distributed storage functionality and a networking functionality.
4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the communications device comprises a software platform that can provide at least one of device registration, channel setup, program setup, management and security.
5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the communications device is adapted to provide at least one of distributed a networking capability, an archival functionality, a temporary storage capability, a storage manager and a digital rights manager.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the network comprises a telephony network.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the network comprises an Internet infrastructure.

8. The system according to claim 7,
wherein the Internet infrastructure is coupled to a telephony network, and
wherein the communications device provides two-way communications with telephony network.

9. The system according to claim 1,
wherein the network comprises a telephony network, a telephony network headend and a satellite system headend,
wherein the communications device provides two-way communications with the telephony network headend via the telephony network, and
wherein the communications device provides two-way communications with the satellite system headend via the telephony network.

10. The system according to claim 9,
wherein the communications device can request the media content from the satellite system headend via the telephony network, and
wherein the communications device receives the requested media content via the antenna.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the communications device receives acknowledge information relating to the media content request from the satellite system headend via the telephony network.

12. The system according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the telephony network headend and the satellite system headend comprises a modem that supports at least one of an upconverter, a modulator, a router, a firewall and an intranet infrastructure.

13. The system according to claim 9,
wherein the communications device receives a broadcast media guide from the satellite system headend,

wherein the communications device receives a personal media guide from the telephony network headend, and

wherein the communications device generates a unified media guide by processing the received broadcast media guide and the received personal media guide.

14. The system according to claim 9,
wherein telephony network headend receives a broadcast media guide from the satellite system headend,

wherein telephony network headend receives a personal media guide from the communications device, and

wherein telephony network headend generates a unified media guide by processing the received broadcast media guide and the received personal media guide.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the telephony network headend sends the unified media guide to the communications device.

16. The system according to claim 9, wherein the telephony network headend is a digital subscriber line (DSL) headend.

17. The system according to claim 16,
wherein the telephony network comprises a DSL infrastructure, and
wherein the communications device provides two-way communications with the DSL headend via a DSL modem and the DSL infrastructure.

18. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a second communications device coupled to the network, the second communications device providing two-way communications with the network,
wherein the second communications device can send the media content to the communications device via the network, and
wherein the second communications can receive the media content from communications device via the network.

19. The system according to claim 18,
wherein the communications device is disposed at a first location, and
wherein the second communications device is disposed in a second location.

20. The system according to claim 18,

wherein the communications device is disposed in a first home environment, and
wherein the second communications device is disposed in a second home environment.

21. The system according to claim 18, wherein the second communications device is coupled to the network via a headend.

22. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a media server coupled to the network,
wherein the communications device can receive the media content from the media server via the network.

23. A method for exchanging media content, comprising:
adapting a communications device to provide two-way communications with a network;
adapting the communications device to provide one-way communications with an antenna;
receiving, by the communications device, media content from the antenna;
receiving, by the communications device, the media content from the network; and
sending, by the communications device, the media content to the network.

24. The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
requesting, by the communications device, the media content from a satellite headend that is part of the network;

receiving, by the communications device, acknowledge information relating to the requested media content from the satellite headend; and

receiving, by the communications device, the requested media content from the antenna.

25. The method according to claim 23, further comprising:

receiving, by the communications device, a personal media guide from a telephony network headend that is part of the network;

receiving, by the communications device, a broadcast media guide from a satellite headend that is part of the network; and

generating, by the communications device, a unified media guide based on at least the received personal media guide and the received broadcast media guide.

26. The method according to claim 23, further comprising:

receiving, by a telephony network headend that is part of the network, a personal media guide from the communications device;

receiving, by the telephony network headend, a broadcast media guide from a satellite headend that is part of the network; and

generating, by the telephony network headend, a unified media guide based on at least the received personal media guide and the received broadcast media guide.

27. The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

sending the unified media guide to the communications device.

28. The method according to claim 23, further comprising:

sending, by the communications device, the received media content to another communications device coupled to the network.

29. The method according to claim 23, further comprising:

receiving, by the communications device, the media content from another communications device coupled to the network.